

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Applicant affirms the election of claims 1-7 in response to the Restriction Requirement. Non-elected claims 8-9 have been canceled.

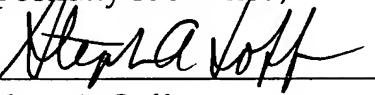
Claim 1 has been amended to address the concerns raised in the rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to provide a clear antecedent basis for the term "the partially steam reformed mixture." Claim 1 has also been amended to make clear that the "reforming of the reaction mixture" takes place in the "heated steam reforming unit."

Claims 1-7 have been provisionally rejected on grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of copending Application Serial No. 10/667,392. To obviate this rejection, applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to Application Serial No. 10/667,392, accompanied by the fee for recording a statutory disclaimer in the amount of \$130.00.

In view of the foregoing amendment and the attached Terminal Disclaimer, applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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